

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit being operably disposed between a plurality of audio sources and a signal processing circuit, the integrated circuit comprising:

a magnetic field sensor;

a magnetic field threshold comparator and a magnetic field threshold value, the magnetic field threshold comparator being operably coupled to the magnetic field sensor and the magnetic field threshold value; [[and,]]

a gate being operably responsive to the magnetic field threshold comparator, the gate including a plurality of gate inputs and a gate output, the plurality of gate inputs being operably coupled to the plurality of audio sources, and the gate output being operably coupled to the signal processing circuit, wherein one of the plurality of audio sources is selected to be presented to the signal processing circuit in response to the magnetic field threshold comparator output; and

a manual override, operable to couple one or more of the plurality of audio sources to the signal processing circuit.

2. (Original) The integrated circuit of Claim 1 wherein the magnetic field sensor has a power consumption of substantially 100 μ W or less.

3. (Original) The integrated circuit of Claim 1 wherein the magnetic field sensor is a lateral bipolar magnetotransistor.

4. (Original) The integrated circuit of Claim 1 wherein the magnetic field sensor is a split-drain MAGFET.

5. (Original) The integrated circuit of Claim 1 wherein the magnetic field sensor is a Hall effect sensor.

6. (Original) The integrated circuit of Claim 1 wherein the magnetic field sensor is a micro-electromechanical system (MEMS) device.

7. (Original) The integrated circuit of Claim 1 wherein the magnetic field sensor is an external telecoil.

8. Canceled

9. Canceled

10. (Original) The integrated circuit of Claim 1 being operably coupled to a signal processing device selected from the group consisting of biasing, amplifying, filtering, and rectifying devices.

11. (Currently Amended) For an assisted-listening device having an integrated circuit based magnetic field sensor and gate selector, a method for facilitating listening comprising the steps of:

providing a magnetic field threshold level;

receiving a magnetic field input level;

comparing the magnetic field threshold level to the magnetic field input level; and, selecting one of the plurality of audio sources to be presented to a signal processing circuit in response to the comparison of the magnetic field threshold level and the magnetic field input level; and

providing a manual override to allow manual selection of one or more of the plurality of audio sources to be presented to the signal processing circuit.

12. Canceled

Application No. 10/736,151
Amendment dated August 15, 2006
Reply to final Office Action of February 15, 2006

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11 further comprising providing an integrated telecoil preamplifier operably coupled between the selected audio source and the gate.

14-27 Canceled